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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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SOURCE  

1. Source is of the opinion that Western countries are much too passive about the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY). Instead of ignoring the WFDY, the West should organize youth festivals of their own to overshadow the Communist youth festivals. She believes that the Communist festivals have had a strong influence on Western youth, particularly on those from colonial countries. For example, at the World Youth Congress in Bucharest in 1953, about 20,000 youth from Western countries were given a free entertainment show and lavish hospitality which probably influenced their attitude toward Communism. Even when such shows and hospitality did not win converts to Communism, the Communists still had the advantage; Western youth who might otherwise openly attack Communism tended to adopt a more passive, or even neutral, position on any question because of the reception given by the Communists.
2. Source believes that the Western governments should not try to oppose Communism by sending non-Communist delegations to WFDY functions. The few anti-Communist speeches given by Western delegations are drowned out by the controlled Communist majorities and, in the end, the WFDY gains more prestige and influence among the uncommitted non-political Western youth groups than it does at present by boycotting all youth festivals not controlled by the Communists.
3. Source believes that travel to Communist countries by Western youth who are not connected with Communist political or semi-political rallies and meetings is very useful. Contacts between Western youth and Communist youth have taught the latter to distrust even more their own governments' anti-Western propaganda. Source emphatically stated that Communists from Western countries should be strictly forbidden to travel to the Communist countries of Europe. Further, that as long as Western governments harass their own Communists, the suffering populations of Communist Europe continue to obtain satisfaction knowing that Communists all over the world do not get their own way.

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